

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5521

THE WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T KINGSTON 2731

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DEPARTMENT FOR A; THE WHITE HOUSE FOR MRS. MARY HOYT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, JM (MRS. CARTER)

SUBJECT: MRS. CARTER'S VISIT: BIO DATA ON MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY
AFFAIRS KENNETH A. AND MRS. MCNEILL WHO WILL HOST MAY
30 LUNCHEON IN HONOR OF MRS. VANCE

1. MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MRS. KENNETH A.
MCNEILL WILL HOST A LUNCHEON ON MAY 30 IN HONOR OF MRS. VANCE.
OTHER GUESTS WILL INCLUDE ALL MEMBERS OF THE OFFICIAL PARTY
NOT ATTENDING THE JAMAICA HOUSE LUNCHEON HOSTED BY PM MANLEY.
FOLLOWING ARE BIOGRAPHIC DATA ON DR. AND MRS. MCNEILL.

2. DR. MCNEILL WAS BORN ON FEBRUARY 18, 1918 IN THE PARISH
OF ST. MARY, JAMAICA. AN EAR, NOSE AND THROAT SPECIALIST,
DR. MCNEILL WAS EDUCATED AT ST. BARTHOLOMEWS HOSPITAL IN
LONDON BETWEEN 1936 AND 1942. SINCE HIS RETURN TO JAMAICA
IN 1945, HE HAS BEEN PROMINENT IN THE MEDICAL PROFESSION
HERE -- AT LEAST UNTIL HIS ENTRY INTO POLITICAL LIFE IN
THE 1960'S. AT VARIOUS TIMES HE HAS ALSO BEEN A
VISITING PROFESSOR AT COLOMBIA UNIVERSITY, HARVARD
MEDICAL SCHOOL, AND AT THE UNIVERSITIES OF NEBRASKA,
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OKLAHOMA AND CINCINNATI.

3. DR. MCNEILL, A MEMBER OF THE PEOPLE'S NATIONAL
PARTY (PNP), WAS APPOINTED TO THE JAMAICAN SENATE IN
1962 WHERE HE SERVED UNTIL 1972. IN 1972 HE WAS
ELECTED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SERVED AS
MINISTER OF HEALTH FROM 1972 TO 1976. IN JANUARY 1977,

AFTER RE-ELECTION IN DECEMBER 1976, HE WAS APPOINTED MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. AMONGST HIS MANY RESPONSIBILITIES HE IS CHAIRMAN OF A CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM COMMITTEE WHICH IS EXAMINING STEPS NECESSARY TO MAKE JAMAICA A REPUBLIC WITHIN THE COMMONWEALTH.

4. ASIDE FROM MEDICAL PRACTICE AND POLITICS "SOCIALIST" MCNEIL HAS A WIDE RANGE OF BUSINESS INTERESTS AND HAS MANAGED TO BORROW AT CONCESSIONAL RATES SEVERAL MILLION DOLLARS FROM VARIOUS JAMAICAN COMMERCIAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL BANKS. ALTHOUGH ESSENTIALLY FRIENDLY TO THE UNITED STATES, HIS IDEOLOGY IS OPPORTUNISM AND HE DID NOT HESITATE TO JOIN THE ANTI-USG BANDWAGON OF LAST YEAR. AS AN EXAMPLE, HE HOSTED SEVERAL SHOWINGS OF AN ANTI-CIA FILM DEPICTING VARIOUS TACTICS USED BY THE CIA, ALLEGEDLY, TO DESTABILIZE OR OVERTHROW GOVERNMENTS.

5. HIS WIFE, VALERIE MCNEILL, IS PERHAPS A MORE DEDICATED SOCIALIST THAN HER HUSBAND AND MOST CERTAINLY IS A STRONGER PERSON. HER BASIC INCLINATIONS ARE RADICAL AND SHE IS WELL KNOWN FOR HER PRO-CUBAN SYMPATHIES AND HER REGULAR CONTACTS WITH A WIDE RANGE OF CUBAN DIPLOMATS IN KINGSTON. SHE IS EXTREMELY ACTIVE IN VARIOUS TYPES OF SOCIAL AND CHARITABLE WORK BENEFITING CHILDREN, THE AGED, VICTIMS OF DISASTERS, ETC. SHE IS ALSO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

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AND A MEMBER OF THAT PARTY'S POLICY COMMITTEE. DESPITE HER RADICAL LEFTIST INCLINATIONS, SHE (LIKE MANY OTHERS OF THE SAME IDEOLOGY) HAS NOT HESITATED TO TAKE OUT INSURANCE AGAINST THE FUTURE. AS AN EXAMPLE, SEVERAL MONTHS AGO SHE WAS APPREHENDED AT THE MONTEGO BAY AIRPORT WHILE ATTEMPTING TO SMUGGLE \$46,000 FROM JAMAICA TO THE U.S. ALTHOUGH THIS INCIDENT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY DENIED AND HUSHED UP, THERE APPEARS TO BE LITTLE DOUBT THAT IT DID IN FACT OCCUR.

6. BOTH OF THE MCNEILLS' HAVE TRAVELLED WIDELY THROUGHOUT THE CARIBBEAN, TO THE U.S. AND TO BOTH WESTERN AND EASTERN EUROPE, AND ARE FREQUENT VISITORS TO CUBA. ONE SON IS A STUDENT IN HAVANA (ALONG WITH THE PRIME MINISTER'S SON).

7. DR. MCNEILL WILL BE LEAVING FOR WASHINGTON ON JUNE 1 TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES FOR APPROXIMATELY THREE WEEKS ON A DEPARTMENT OF STATE INTERNATIONAL

VISITOR'S GRANT. THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THIS VISIT WILL BE TO CONSULT WITH MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS, STAFF OF CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES AND OTHERS WHO CAN PROVIDE INSIGHTS INTO THE U.S. CONSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM, AND U.S. LEGISLATIVE PROCESSES. THE INFORMATION WILL BE ONE OF MANY INPUTS IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW AND PARLIAMENTARY REFORM PROCESSES BEING CHAIRED BY DR. MCNEILL.

8. BOTH MCNEILLS ARE FRIENDLY, OUTGOING, AND ATTRACTIVE. THEY WILL BE CHARMING AND GRACIOUS AS HOST AND HOSTESS FOR MRS. VANCE'S LUNCHEON. DR. MCNEILL WALKS WITH A SLIGHT LIMP -- APPARENTLY AS A CONSEQUENCE OF A CHILDHOOD DISEASE WHICH REQUIRED YEARS OF HOSPITALIZATION WHICH MOTIVATED HIM TO BECOME A PHYSICIAN.

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